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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1) (Original) A method of producing a hinged-lid packet of cigarettes; the method comprising the steps of:

folding a first blank (18) of foil about a group (8) of cigarettes (9) for forming a an inner wrapping (7);

folding a second blank (17) about the inner wrapping (7) to define a body (4) and a lid (5) hinged to each other and for forming an outer package (3);

folding a third blank (19) for forming a collar (10), which is interposed between the inner wrapping (7) and the outer package (3) and projects from the body (4) to engage the lid (5);

juxtaposing the third blank (19) and the first blank (18) in a given superimposed position; and

simultaneously folding the first and the third blank (18, 19) about the group (8) of cigarettes (9);

the method being characterized in that both the inner wrapping (7) and the collar (10) are tubular, and the given superimposed position is a transversely offset position, wherein a first lateral portion (40) of the third blank (19) projects laterally with respect to the first blank (18), and a second lateral portion (44) of the first blank (18) projects laterally with respect to the third blank (19) on the opposite side of the third blank (19) to the first lateral portion (40).

2) (Original) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the first and the third blank (18, 19) are connected to each other in the given superimposed position.

3) (Currently amended) A method as claimed in Claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the first blank (18) is folded along fold lines (45, 46) formed after the first blank (18) is positioned in the given superimposed position with respect to the third blank (19).

4) (Original) A method as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the fold lines (45, 46) are located on the first blank (18) as a function of the given superimposed position.

5) (Currently amended) A method as claimed in ~~any one of~~ ~~Claims 1 to 4~~ Claim 1, wherein the first and the third blank (18, 19) are folded simultaneously into a tube, and are stabilized by connecting the first and the second lateral portion (40, 44) to laterally opposite portions (41, 47) of the third blank (19) and first blank (18) respectively.